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A WORD FROM THE [illegible]D:

OR,

GOOD COUNSEL

How to close savingly with

CHRIST.

WITH

Some short, but serious Questions to ask our Hearts every Morning and Evening, whether we walk closely with Him.

And especially, Rules for the strict and due Observation of the Lords Day.

1 Sam. 3. 1. *And the Word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open Vision.*

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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

TO THE READER.

Courteous Reader,

HAd the Author of these Rules and Enquiries, intended them for the Press, thou mightest have found them set off with greater advantage to please a curious Pallat; but being drawn out onely for a plain people, they come close to the Conscience, in a familiar vulgar stile. Read them with care and consideration, and you will find every line almost heart-searching: Keep this Book alway at your Beds-head, and let not a day pass over your head, without taking it into

your hand, and pondering the things in your heart. The First Rules are of singular use to bring you unto Christ: The Questions to keep you close in your walk with him every day; And the last Rules, are to help you especially on Gods Day. Never more need of Counsel about our Souls: The Lord help us to improve all to Gods Glory, and our own good and comfort.

Farewel.

A Word from the Word:

OR,

Good Counsel how to close savingly with Christ, &c.

Twelve Rules to prepare you for closing with Christ.

1. WOrk your hearts into a thorow and unfeigned belief of the Articles of your Faith: Believe certainly; and firmly, without the least doubt, that there is a great and glorious God, that Jesus Christ is his only Son, and the alone Saviour; That the Bible is the true Word of God; That undoubtedly there is such a place as Heaven and Hell, *Heb.* 11. 6.

2. Really believe, that you carry within your breasts, precious and immortal Souls; which must be adjudg'd by this

God, to one of theſe two places, there to be for ever and ever, *Mat.* 16. 26, &c.

3. Aſſure your ſelves, that the laſt Sentence will be paſt according to your well or ill behaving your ſelves in this life. Every man ſhall be rewarded according to his works, 2 *Cor.* 5. 10. *Iſa.* 3. 10, 11. *Eccleſ.* 8. 11, 12, 13.

4. Account upon it, that it's very difficult to come to that Heaven, and that the way to deſtruction is broad and eaſie. Remember ſtill, you have deceitful hearts within you, a wicked Devil nigh you; and ſnares and hindrances about and before you, *Matth.* 7. 13, 14. *Luke* 13. 24. Say, my time is ſhort, my work is great, and my ſtrength is ſmall.

5. Certainly believe it, that Heaven is ſo glorious, that it's worth all your care and pains, be it never ſo much; and that Hell is ſo dreadful, that you may reaſonably fly from it with all diligence, earneſtneſs and ſpeed; that it's better you never had been born, if you ſhould die in your ſinnes, and perith everlaſtingly: what a direful ſcreetch will your Soul give, if it goes out of your body into unquenchable burnings? *Heb.* 11. 14, 16, 26 1 *Pet.* 1. 4. 2 *Cor.* 4. 17, 18. 2 *Cor.* 5. 11.

6. Reckon

6. Reckon, that all the troubles of this world, can't make a man going to that Heaven in wayes of Righteousness, miserable and wretched: How sweet will it be to pass, though out of a poor tottering Cottage, into a glorious Palace? Out of a Sea of troubles and dangers, into an Haven of Peace, Rest, and Plenty? Nor can all the Riches, Honours, and Pleasures here, make a man going to that Hell, happy: What a terrible Hell will Hell be to great ones, that have spent all their dayes in pleasure? It's much, to change a Palace for the dark, silent Grave, Jewels and Deckings, for worms and rottenness. But what is it to have weet singings turned into bitter howlings? Deckt, and glittering rooms, pleasant walks, rich attire, delicious fare into dark Dungeons, unquenchable lakes of fire and brimstone? *Mal.* 3. 15. to 18. *Luk.* 16. to 21.

7. Seriously think, may yet get to this Heaven, and avoide the fearful plagues and terrors of Hell: If I shall come to glory, what a God shall I enjoy for ever and ever? into what blessed arms and bosom shall I cast my Soul? and if I should fall in Hell at last? can I bear

up under the weight of Gods Vengeance? Well, yet there is hope; God's Heart, the door of Grace, and the Gate of Heaven, yet ſtand open. How would the damned in Hell give thouſands of worlds (if they had them) for my may be, Heaven, Grace, and Chriſt are offer'd, and dare I refuſe all? Can I venture the loſs of Soul and body for ever and ever? *Heb.* 10. 30, 31.

8. If I miſs of glory, 'twill be mine own fault, my damnation will lye at my own door: God can clear himſelf of my blood; his profers of grace are free and frequent, earneſt and real; and ſhall I murder mine own ſoul? *Ezek.* 18. 32. *John* 5. 40. It may be written over my Grave, *Here is one that deſtroyed himſelf, that would go to Hell through mercies, judgments and warnings.*

9. Do I ſtate the caſe with your Soul ſolemnly; What is there in ſin, that I ſo much doat on? What are my greateſt deſigns and proſpects in the world? Can I dig the pearl of happineſs out of this dunghil World? Can I get the Houſes, Lands, Honours, Friends, that I aim at; and if I ſhould, what are they? Certainly conclude, the greateſt wiſdom is to be wiſe

wise to salvation, and my best work is to work it out with fear and trembling, lest I lose it, *Prov.* 3, 13, 14, &c.

10. Then search and try your hearts, whether you are in the Faith, and your hearts sound in Gods Statutes. Ask seriously, Have I the love that is sincere, the Faith that is sound, soul-saving, and sin-killing, and life-reforming? Am I sure, my face and heart are really set *Sion*-ward, and Heaven-ward, 2 *Cor.* 13. 5.

To this end Query:

1. *Did I ever see sin odious, black and bellish? Defiling and damning? Have I seen it in the glass of the Law, bloody and killing? but in Christs blood, exceeding, and above measure sinful?* Rom. 7. 13.

2. *Do I see in Jesus Christ a beauty and excellency, a fulness and Alsufficiency? Is he the chiefest of ten thousand, altogether lovely in mine eye? Can I say, oh! thousands of Gold (if I had it) for one drop of Christs blood; that cleansing, healing, peace-speaking blood! none but Christ. All is but dung, that I may win him,* Phil. 3. 7, 8.

11. Take it for granted, that there is no name under Heaven, whereby you can be saved, but Jesus Christs. All grace and mercy for this life, and that to

to come? Muſt I come to you thorow the channel of Chriſts blood, *Acts* 16. 30, 31. *Acts* 4. 10, 11, 12. Say, by ſin I have ſhut Heaven Gate, and hearden'd Gods heart againſt me: I have laid my ſelf open to all the wrath of God, all the curſes in the Bible, and all the torments of Hell: and if I could bring all the cries of my ſelf, and all my friends, the ſtrength of the Angels, the riches of all the world, it would be as nothing to make up this woful breach: Chriſt alone can do it.

12. Believe it, that Chriſt came to ſeek and to ſave ſuch as we that were loſt. That he is not onely able, but willing and ready to give forth his rich grace. What made him leave his Fathers boſom, put off the Majeſtick Robes of his Glory, but love to poor ſouls? What made him drink the dreadful Cup of his Fathers wrath, make ſuch loud calls, ſuch rich profers, wait, and ſend; be rejected, and wait; cry earneſtly, and wait long, but love to ſinners?

John 6. 35, 37. 'Twas love to Souls made him give up his body to be broken, that precious box of oyntment, which fills both Heaven and earth with its ſweet ſavour, and pleaſant perfumes. Ha-

Having throughly weigh'd and believ'd these foregoing propositions; Then come to Christ these 13 Wayes.

Directions how to close savingly with Christ.

1. COme to Christ, a poor, lost, & undone wretch, hopeless & helpless; to an onely able, and merciful Saviour. Cry out, as one sinking under the Waves and boistrous tempests of sin, *Master save, or else I perish.* If thou wilt, thou canst, *Heb.* 7. 25. Say with *Thomas*, *My Lord and my God, my Christ and my Saviour*; put the hand of thy Faith, into Christs pierced and bleeding sides, *John* 20. 27, 28. Say as they, *John* 6. 68. Whither should I go, but unto such a Saviour; thou hast eternal life. Thou canst help me out of the deep and miery ditch of my sins, and over the fiery and fearful gulph of Gods wrath, and canst bring me into the blessed presence, yea, into the gracious arms, bosom, and embraces of the God of Glory. I stretch out the weak arms of my Faith to thee, O stretch out the strong Arm of thy Power and Mercy, and come and save me.

2. Come as an humble, broken, and relen-

relenting ſinner, to an offended Majeſty. Come trembling, with tears in your eyes, and deep ſorrow in your heart. Come as one vile in the ſight of God, your ſelf, men and Angels. As the poor Publican, not worthy to look up to Heaven; ſmite on thy wicked heart. As the Centurion, ſay, *I am not worthy thou ſhouldeſt come under the roof of my heart.* As the Prodigal, *I have ſinned againſt Heaven and am not worthy to be an hired ſervant.* Yet there is mercy enough in my Fathers heart and thy merits, *Iſa.* 61. 1. I have let flie many poyſonous bullets, and bitter arrows of ſin againſt thee; I have by ſin, fetcht (as it were) blood from my precious heart afreſh, though it ran ſo freely and abundantly for my ſake; but now a ſight of thy pierced ſide, breaks my heart with ſobs and ſighs. My ſins are now, as ſo many pricks in my ſide, thorns at my heart, and ropes about my neck.

3. Come as a filthy, polluted, loathſome creature, to a cleanſing Fountain of Grace. *Lazarus* in all his ſores; nor *Job* on the Dunghil with his ſcabs and botches, were not ſo filthy and abominable in the eye of man, as I am through

the

the running sores and plagues of my heart and life, in the sight of an holy and pure God. I am more vile then the toad, then the stinking carrion in the ditch. How doth this filth stream through every duty and mercy? I drop the filthiness of sin, where ever I go. Oh wash, cleanse and purifie in thy blood, *Job* 15. 16, 42. Unclean, unclean! Thy body was broken, to let out thy blood for my sake, and shall not my heart be broken, to let out the filth and gore of my sin?

4. Come as a bond-slave, drudg, and vassal, to Christ as to a Redeemer. Complain of the Devils cruel usage, and sins tyrannizing. Say, Lord, thou hast paid a price sufficient. Thou hast redeemed me by thy precious blood, that is more worth then ten thousand worlds. Knock off these Iron fetters, rescue me out of this hellish Dungeon of sin. I have now no command of my head or heart, of my tongue or passions. How do lusts domineer? *Luke* 4. 18. *Heb.* 2. 14, 15. *Rom.* 12. 13, 14. Here I lie stak'd down to the earth by a carnal heart.

5. Come as a sin-sick-soul to Christ, as to the onely able Physitian. As sick per-

persons, crying out of an aking head, or griping bowels. So complain, Oh the plague of an hard heart! The galls and gripes of an wounded Conscience! The wounds and stabs I have given my Soul by sin! Here I am sick to the very heart, fainting and perishing. Oh a drop of thy blood: that is a cordial indeed, the soveraign Balm of *Gilead*. These many years, yea all my life have I been diseased with the bloody issue of sin; and all others are Physitians of no value, but if I may but touch the hem of thy righteous Garment, I shall be whole, *Matth.* 9. 20, 21, 22. I come to thee with mine Ulcers and Imposthumes, to be lanced; that the rotten members of my body of sin may be cut off.

6. Come weary and heavy laden with your sins, to Christ for rest and ease, *Matth.* 11. 28, 29. Good *Paul*, groaning under the weight of sin, makes many heavy, heart-breaking complaints, *Rom.* 7. 18, 19, and 24. But yet in the 25. v. he triumphs in Christ. Holy *David*, restless and disquiet, roars under sin, *Psal.* 38. 1, to 9. Those sins that were as jewels in your eye, yea, as your right hand or eye; are they now as milstones and loads on your soul?

7. Come

7. Come as a poor, needy, and naked creature to Christ, as the poor to the rich man's door for alms. Come quite stript naked of your own righteousness, *Rev.* 3. 17, 18. Cry out of your spiritual poverty. Lord, not one penny of grace to help my self. Never a poorer wretch came to thee for mercy. Grace I want, if I perish it shall be at thy feet, begging and praying. I will not be thrust away from thy door. Behold want of Faith, Patience, Love, &c. Not able to think or speak, to do or suffer. Oh let the sweet gales of thy spirit bring thy rich promises fraught with incomparable grace and comfort, to unlade their heavenly treasure into my bosom. Give me the Key of Faith, that I may unlock thy rich Store-house, and fetch what I want.

8. Come as an Hunger-starv'd soul for bread of life, thirsting and panting for soul-refreshing grace, *Isa.* 55. Beg, Cry out, Bread, Bread. In some Countries, through great want, they cry, Give and cut me (holding out their arms) give and kill me. Cry, give Lord and strike me, give me heavenly food, and do what thou wilt with me. Say Lord, if but as a dog, I may receive crumbs that fall from thy

full Table of Grace: Thirſt and behold in every bleeding deep wound of Chriſt a fountain of rich flowing mercy. Each heavenly promiſe ſteep't in that ſweet blood of Chriſt by Faith, can afford a full ſatisfying meal of joy and comfort to thy pining hunger-bitten Soul. Apply the lips of thy Faith to thoſe full breaſts, to thoſe over, ever flowing Wells of Salvation. Say, Lord, open thoſe precious Boxes of ointment, and ſprinkle them on my dead, barren, parched, thirſty heart. May I have but bread, but a drop, 'twill be as a refreſhing cordial; how ſweet then will a feaſt of fat things be, Wine on the Lees.

9. Come as a fooliſh, ignorant and back Scholar, to Chriſt as to a great Prophet or School-maſter. Say Lord, its thou muſt teach me, or I ſhall never learn: I am dull to underſtand, but thou canſt and doſt teach thy people to profit: Lord, that I may receive my ſpiritual eye-ſight. Thou haſt many an heavenly leſſon to teach, as Faith, Patience, Self-denial, &c. I am come to be thy Diſciple, I have a long time been under the teachings of man, let me have the teachings of thy Spirit. Thou art meek, and not harſh, *Mat.* 11. 29. 10. Come

10. Come as an unskilful, trembling Souldier, as a weak *David*, ſtrugling with Bears, Lyons, and *Goliahs*, with Principalities and Powers. Come to Chriſt as to the Captain of your Salvation; ſay, Lord, its thou muſt teach my hands to war, and my fingers to fight. It's thou muſt fight my battels for me, or I ſhall fall by the hands of theſe ſtrong and towring luſts. What batteries, aſſaults and ſtorms doth Satan raiſe againſt my Soul? *Heb.* 2. 10. *Epheſ.* 6. 12.

11. Come as a condemned Malefactor and loſt Priſoner to Chriſt, as to your Advocate and Interceſſor. Lay open your bad cauſe and ſad eſtate.

1. Your crimes are great and fearful, Horrid treaſon, and that againſt the higheſt Majeſty.

2. Your accuſers and adverſaries many, ſubtil, diligent and cruel. The Devil, your own heart, and acquaintance can bring in black bills againſt you.

3. The Law of God condemns you, and your doom is dreadful.

4. The great God your Judge is highly incenſed, affronted and diſhonoured.

Now apply your ſelf to Jeſus Chriſt, who has undertook as bad cauſes; ſay,

Lord, ſtand between the flaming fire and revenging ſword of God's wrath and my poor ſoul, 1 *Tim.* 2. 5. 1 *John* 2. 1.

12. Come as a willing ſervant to a good Maſter, as a loyal ſubject to your only Lord and Soveraign, to obey, honour and love him above all others, and that to the death. Say, here I am, what wilt thou have me to do? Here is my head to know thee, my heart to love thee, my tongue to praiſe thee, mine ears to hear thy voice, and mine hands and feet to do thy will. Other Lords beſides thee have rul'd over me. But thou art now mine only Saviour and Prince, *Acts* 5. 30, 31. *Heb.* 5. 9. I diſlike none of thy commands, they are righteous, good and reaſonable; but I finde fault with mine own wretched heart, that I can no more heartily love, and readily obey them. Say, Thy work is as *Adam's* was in Paradice, a pleaſure and not a toyl; as the Bee labouring, ſucks honey and ſweetneſs, 1 *John* 5. 3. What ſweet, ſoul-raviſhing work will my heart make of praying, hearing and meditating, &c. when thou ſtreameſt forth thy graces, thoſe bleſſed ſilver drops of heaven into every vein of my ſoul.

13. Come

13. Come as a poor worthleſs Spouſe to Chriſt, as to an honourable and glorious husband. Come both for thy wedding Garment and matchleſs portion. Come as *Abigal* to *David*, 1 *Sam.* 25. 40, 41, 42. Say, Lord here I am meanly, yea vilely deſcended, by ſin a child of Satan, and thou art the Lord from Heaven. Enoble me with thy grace, which is divine and heavenly blood, far above the heroical blood of Anceſtors.

Here I am ragged, decrepit and deform'd through ſin. Cover my filth and nakedneſs with thy white, ſpotleſs garment; that my ſhame appear not. What is platting the hair, decking a filthy, ſlimy carkaſe, to the adorning the ſoul with invaluable grace. Every grace of thine is a rich Diamond, a Pearl, yea far above. The ſoul fill'd with God is a little Heaven on Earth; and theſe graces are the beſpangling ſtars and glittering lamps thereof.

Read that notable Deſcription, *Ezek.* 16. 3, to 14.

Theſe rich ornaments, this crown, not of Gold, but of Grace and Glory; none but Chriſts *Bride* wears.

Every morning ſet your ſelf ſolemnly,

as in the preſence of God Omniſcient, & charge your heart to give in a true anſwer to theſe enquiries; as it will account for theſe and many other things at the day of Judgement before all the world.

Serious Queſtions to put to our Souls every Morning.

Queſt. 1. *How did I lye down and riſe up? Was God in my thoughts? And if ſo, were the thoughts of him ſweet and precious to my ſoul?* Pſal. 139. 2, 3, 4. Pſal. 92. 1, 2.

2. *In what frame is my heart at preſent? Do I admire God's goodneſs for the laſt nights ſleep, for adding more time to my life? and am I heartily thankful?* Prov. 3. 24.

3. *Can I really commit all mine affairs to God this day, to be guided by his counſel, protected and provided for by his care, and to be willing to be at his diſpoſe?* Mat. 6. 25. &c. 1 Pet. 5. 7. Pſal. 37. 4.

4. *Am I reſolved to ſpeak for God and his glory, what ever it coſt me? In the ſtrength of Chriſt will I not be terrified from, be aſhamed of, or grow weary in well-doing?* Mark 8. 38.

5. *Am*

5. *Am I a child of God, an heir of Glory? or a ſlave to ſin, and a childe of Satan? If I am God's child, muſt I not wear the glorious garment of Righteouſneſs, that royal ſparkling Livery of Heaven? If an Heir of Heaven, Should I not caſt off the rags of corruption, and take heed of defiling my ſelf with the mire of ſin?* Deut. 5. 32. Jude 23. *What ſhould I do more than others?* Mat. 5. 47.

6. *Who is the greateſt deceiver? if my heart, let me not truſt, but watch over it all this day! Wherein are the greateſt dangers, the moſt horrid and woful miſtakes? if about mens ſouls, let me venture the loſs of all, rather then of my precious, never dying ſoul,* Jer. 17. 9, 10.

7. *What are mine implacable, potent, and ſoul-ruining enemies, but the fleſh, the Devil and the world? Let me not pamper the one, hearken to the ſecond, nor Idolize the third; Let me beware of them, watch and be ſober,* Rom. 8. 8. &c. Gal. 5. 17, 19. 1 Pet. 5. 8. Jam. 4. 4. 1 John. 2. 15.

8. *Who is and can be my beſt friend, but God? Let me take care in all things to pleaſe him, fear provoking him. Let me love him with all my heart, obey him with all my might, and honour him throughout all the day,* Pſal. 144. 15. 9. *Where-*

9. *Wherein is the greateſt vanity and vexation, but in the world?* Let *me then ſlight and not admire and adore it. What is the ſureſt gain, and moſt laſting good? Certainly Godlineſs; let me then prize, preſs after, and live in it,* Eccleſ. 1. 2. 1 Tim. 4.8. Chap.6. 6, 7.

10. *What is my heavenly work, but to run a race, fight a good fight, ſtrive and wreſtle? Can this be without care, diligence and watchfulneſs?* 1 Cor. 9. 24. *Oh that a vein of Religion might run thorow all I do this day.*

11. *Whoſe eyes will be upon me all this day to obſerve head and heart, lip and life? Will not God's, the Judge of all the earth? and dare I ſin in his preſence? dare I ſo highly affront him to his face?* Heb. 4. 13. Gen. 39. 9.

12. *If I ſhould ſpend this day in vanity, ſin and idleneſs, will it not be bitterneſs and ſorrow at night? If I ſpend it holily and profitably, ſhall I not pray with more confidence, and lye down with the more peace? Will not the teſtimony of a good conſcience be ground of great rejoycing?* Pſal. 4. 7, 8. 2 Cor. 1. 12.

13. *How would I have this day repreſented at the great day of Judgement? What words,*

words, thoughts and actions, would I have then brought forth? Let mine be ſuch; for certainly all muſt then be laid open, 2 Tim. 6. 11, 12, 17, 18, 19. Eccleſ. 11. 9.

14. *How may I this day order my ſeculiar buſineſs with moſt wiſdom and honeſty: and for my greateſt advantage?* Pſal. 112. 5.

15. *Am I fit now to pour out my ſoul to God in Prayer? Can I firſt and chiefeſt ſeek the Kingdom of God?* Mat. 6. 33. Pſal. 55. 2, 3.

Separate your ſelf every Evening from all Company, and ask your heart theſe Queſtions; And wherein you have been guilty, be heartily ſorrowful, and beg pardon: And wherein God has enabled you to be in any meaſure faithful, bleſs God and be thankful.

Every Evening, ask theſe Queſtions.

1. WHat have *I* done this day for God and his Glory? What can *I* now look back upon with comfort? *Micah* 6. 8.

2. In what frame hath mine heart been all this day? What I have deſir'd

most? Heavenly or Earthly things? Hath my joy been more in God and in hope of Glory, then in Riches, Honours? *&c.* Was my grief most for sin, or for troubles? What have I most suckt comfort from and liv'd upon? Creatures, the Ciſtern? Or God the Fountain? *Jer.* 2. 12, 13. *Hab.* 3. 17, 18.

3. What were mine aimes and ends, in what I went about? Have I been ſincere, and exerciſe a good conſcience towards God and men? Did I eat and drink, pray and diſcourſe with an eye to God's Glory? Or rather did ſelf ſit uppermoſt in all? 1 *Cor.* 10.31. 1 *Pet.*4.11.

4. What ſpiritual Duties have I perform'd this Day? Did I regard the manner as well as the matter; out of Conſcience did I do them and not out of Cuſtome? Did I pray fervently, read with care and obſervation, meditate ſo ſeriouſly as thorowly to affect the heart? *Rom.* 12. 11. *Jam.* 5. 16.

5. How faithful, diligent and careful have I been in my Place and Calling? Have there been no idle hours in the day? *Rom.* 12. 11. 1 *Tim.* 5. 13. *Prov.* 10. 4. 1 *Theſ.* 4. 11.

6. What have been my company this day?

day? What good have I done to them, or receiv'd from them? Did I reprove, exhort, ſtrengthen, encourage, comfort, or warn, as occaſion was given, and need required? *Col.* 4. 6. *Heb.* 10. 24, 25.

7. How have I born the troubles and croſſes of the Day? Did I not murmur, vex, nor ſink? Did I not entertain hard thoughts of, nor utter raſh words againſt God? *Phil.* 4. 11, 12.

8. What were my temptations this day? And what my ſins? Was I not eaſily drawn into ſin? Little overaw'd or reſtrain'd by God's All-ſeeing eye, merciful heart, or revenging hand? Was I not ſoon proud, angry? *&c.* Did I not long continue in it, and have I yet thorowly repented of it? What conviction, or mercy, or warning did I ſin againſt? *Iſa.* 59. 12, 13. *Jer.* 8. 6.

9. What were my mercies this day, and how was my heart under them? Was I affected with God's goodneſs, and unfeignedly thankful; and therefore cheerefully fruitful in good works? Have I priz'd my health, friends and eſtate? *&c. Epheſ.* 5. 20.

10. What have I learnt this day? What more heart-affecting knowledge have

have I got of God and his Glory, of my self and my sins: Of this world and that to come? *Phil.* 1. 9. 2 *Pet.* 3. 18. *Col.* 1. 9, 10.

11. What of God's Word have I remember'd or read, repeated or heard this day? Was any Scripture sweet and good to my soul? What promise did I by Faith make mine own? What particular command did in any thing sway and rule me? 2 *Tim.* 3. 15, 16, 17.

12. What graces have I especially exercis'd? Have I liv'd by Faith, lov'd God with all my heart and soul? Denyed my self in any thing dear to me for God? 2 *Pet.* 1. 6.

13. Have I this day liv'd upon, lov'd, honour'd and reverenc'd God the Father, as my Sun, Shield, and Portion? Have I this day priz'd, own'd, and made use of Christ as my Saviour, Intercessour, and Friend? As my Root, Head, and Husband? Hath the Holy Ghost been to me a Director, or Comforter, a Quickner, or Confirmer? Have I cherisht and not quencht its motions? *Psal.* 84. 11.

14. Have I been affected with the evils of sin or misery of others, of Nation,

on, Parish and Family, of Friends or oes? Have I had a pittiful heart, or ountiful hand to any in want? *Psal.* 9. 136. *Jam.* 2. 15, 16.

15. Have I shewn more especial love nd pitty to those that are of the hous-old of Faith? How have I honour'd hose that fear the Lord? *Psal.* 15. 4. *al.* 16. 3. Hath a godly *Job* or *Lazarus*, ough in rags and sores, been unto me an Orient Pearl on a Dunghil? Have not valued men more according to reatness, then goodness? *Gal.* 6. 10.

16. Did the Church of God and in-rest of Christ lie near my heart this ay? have I heartily pray'd for the wel-are of *Sion*? and mourn'd that its songs re turn'd into lamentations, and its lory into disolation? Do I prefer *Jeru-lem* above my chief joy? *Jer.* 19. 1.

17. Can my Family witness, that I ave done any good for or to them? Can hose that best know me, speak best for me? Have I been good as husband or Wife? *Psal.* 101. 2. *&c.* as Parent or child, as master or servant? *Ephes.* 6. 1, *&c.*

18. Have I wrong'd no man, in his Estate, by over-reaching him; in his name by slandering, or back-biteing?

1 *Thes.*

1 *Thes.* 4. 6. In his soul or body by letting him fall into, or live in any sin or trouble? have I done to others, as I would they should to me? *Mat.* 7. 12.

19. Have I forgiven mine enemies, rejoyc'd at other's mercys, and not envied any's honour, riches or friends, and coveted them? *Luke* 6. 27. to 35. *Mat.* 6. 12. 14, 15.

20. Am I of a quiet, peaceable spirit? Have I not quarrel'd and contended with my neighbours? Or do *I* make up breaches and follow peace with all men? Do *I* honour the King, and obey Governours for conscience sake? *Rom.* 12. 18. *Rom.* 13. 1, *&c.*

21. Hath my clothing been sutable to my place and station? Hath my carriage been sober, discret and serious? Have *I* not been vain, wanton, nor frothy in my discourse or spirit? 1 *Pet.* 3. 3, 4. 2 *Tit.* 1, *&c.*

22. Have *I* scorn'd and contemn'd the glory of the world, accounting it but dirt for Grace, and dross for Christ? 1 *John* 5. 4, 5.

23. Have *I* really set death before me? My life is a vapour, a shadow; if *I* should die daily? What preparation have *I* made for it? Am *I* sure, but this is my last night?

ght? *If* God ſhould ſhut mine eyes by eath, how is it like to be with my ſoul? re *I* lie down with the guilt or filth of y one ſin? *Is* there are any returning om the Grave, to amend? No cer-inly, 2 *Cor.* 4. 14, 16. 1 *Cor.* 15. 54. c. *Prov.* 27. 1.

24. Can *I* tell how great the day of udgement will be? *How* glorious and rrible? And dare *I* meet Chriſt oming in flaming fire, with ten thou-ind of my ſins to take vengeance? Can hold up my head? Are my graces ſound, nd of the right kind? All is not gold hat glitters. *Have I* this day ſearcht, udg'd and condemn'd my ſelf? 1 *Cor.* 1. 31. 2 *Cor.* 5. 10, 11. 2 *Theſ.* 1. 8, 9, 10.

25. Do *I* believe *H*ell torments dread-ul and eternal? *It*'s flames unſpeakably corching? *It*'s miſery, endleſs, and eaſe-leſs? And do *I* not fly from this wrath o come? *Rev.* 14. 10, 11.

26. Have *I* aſcended in the triumphant Chariot of Faith this day, and beheld the new *Jeruſalem*, God's glorious Palace? Did *I* live, love, think and talk as an *H*eir of this Kingdom? *Epheſ.* 1. 18, 19.

27. Have I not in all I have done, minded

minded man more then God? Have not minded only the cleansing the outside? *Ephes.* 6. 5, 6.

28. Dare *I* lie down this night, without praying earnestly to God for the pardon of my sins, the blessings of the night, and the salvation of my soul?

Directions for the strict Observation of the Lord's Day.

For Preparation.

1. ORder all your week business so wisely before-hand, that you may have no unnecessary work on God's day; that your hands may be as free as possible from worldly work, and your heads from worldly cares and thoughts? *Exod.* 20. 8, 9, 10, 11.

2. Thank seriously, what a weighty work am I going about: My week affairs are but Toys and Trifles to this. What are Sheep, Oxen, or Shops, to Grace, Christ or Heaven? Can I be too careful and serious in God's Work, in Soul-Salvation work? Surely no. How holy should my thoughts be, how heavenly my discourse, how earnest mine endeavours

ours all the day long? *Isa.* 58. 13, 14. 3. Therefore prepare with all your night, ſearch your hearts and lives, *Chron.* 29. 1, 2. 1. Find out what your ſins are, to confeſs, mourn over and pray againſt, *Lam.* 3. 20. 2. What the Mercies are you want for ſoul or body, for your Friends, Families and Nation, account this a Market day for your ſouls. *Rev.* 3. 17, 18. 3. What bleſſings receiv'd, and what thanks to be return'd? *Pſal.* 116. 12.

4. Think with your ſelf, what good did I get by former, yea by the laſt Sabbath? Was my heart then broken, or warm'd with love to God, and the like? What did I then learn, and how have I praſtis'd it in the week? Have I fully digeſted by meditation, firmly believ'd, and faithfully obeyed the truths were laſt taught me? *Iſa.* 1. 11, *&c.*

5. Beg earneſtly of God, that he would help you to ſanctifie a Sabbath, that this may be the beſt Sabbath you ever kept. That your heart may be more tender, humble and heavenly; that the outgoings of your ſoul may be more free, ſtrong and fixed, and the incomes of Heavenly Grace and comfort more

abun-

abundant: That God may reap more glory, and you receive more good, then ever heretofore. That the holy keeping of this Sabbath, may be an earneſt to you of keeping a never never-ending Sabbath with God in glory.

To this end pray eſpecially for theſe four things.

1. That God may prepare a ſuitable word for your ſoul, that the Miniſter's mouth may be opened, and his heart enlarged, and his meſſage full of goodneſs. That it may be the pure, plain, and powerful Word of God, *Epheſ.* 6.18,19.

2. That God would fill his own Ordinances with his own preſence and bleſſing: that he would touch your heart, when man ſpeaks to the ear. Drop, yea ſtream down heavenly Grace through theſe Conduit Pipes, *Iſa.* 48. 17. *Luke* 16. 14.

3. That you may have the hearing Ear, the ſeeing Eye, and the underſtanding Heart; That you may be teachable, willing to learn, and apt to receive what God delivers, *Jam.* 1. 21, 22. *Pſalm.* 110. 3.

4. That your ſoul's enemies may be kept off, at leaſt reſiſted and kept down.

That

hat your hearts may not deceive you, Devil divert you, nor the world di-ct or disturb you.

Having thus in some measure pre-d your hearts for the Solemn work this great Day; observe and pra-ce these following directions, as ever u hope to have the blessing of the bbath.

1. As soon as you awake, fix your rts and eyes heaven-ward, bless God at you see the light of one day more, pecially Gods day; wherein you may bour to have your sins pardon'd and ng'd, and your Souls furnisht with race, and so fitted for Glory. Call the bbath your delight, *Psal.* 118.23, 24. *al*, 59. 16.

2. Beg heartily of God, that he would engthen you by his Grace, to do hat he requires, as he would have it one; that he would pardon your un-reparation, bear with your infirmi-es, accept of your poor services, and rown all with his blessing, 2 *Chron.* 30. 8, 19, 20.

3. That you be fitted for the holy and

heavenly work of the day; affect
heart with some, or all of these Ten
lowing things:

1. With the Majesty of that G
whom you are to wait upon, *Psal.*
2, 3, &c.

2. With the vileness of sinne, and
your selves because of sin.

3. With the sweetness of Christ, a
the greatness of his Love and Mercy.

4. With the excellency of that heave
ly work you are going about, and t
gain of godliness.

5. With the vanity of the world, a
all things therein.

6. With the worth, and high valu
of your immortal souls.

7. With the rage, subtilty, and dil
gence of your souls enemies.

8. Especially, with the deceitfulne
of your own hearts.

9. With the Terrour and Torme
of Hell.

10. With the unspeakable and ever
lasting glory of Heaven.

4. Carefully, and conscienciously pe
form Family Duties, *Josh.*24.15.

1. See that your Servants and Childre

ge, waſte not away the Morning in or idleneſs.

Cauſe them to joyn together in yer, Reading, or any other Godly rciſe, *Gen.* 18. 19.

If you have time, you may Ca-ſe them, or diſcourſe to them of of thoſe former Ten things, *Deut.* 7.

Inform your ſelves and them, what eat and glorious Majeſty and Ma-you are to ſerve, *Mal.* 1. 14.

What a bleſſed and heavenly work go about; that it's heart work, *John* . and therefore hard and difficult , and yet that it's pleaſant and ex-nt, *Prov.* 3. 17. Chap. 8. 34, 35. Oh fatneſs of Gods houſe, and the ties of holineſs.

What an abundant and unſpeak-reward attends the well-doing, e-life everlaſting, *Rom.* 6. 22. and fearful a thing it is to triffle and areleſs in it, *Levit.* 10. 3 *Mal.* 1. 8. 4. *Heb.* 12. 28, 29. *Acts* 20. 9.

Exhort and command them, to all good exerciſes; yea, watch over, look after them. Remember the

fourth Commandment, binds you
look to all within your care and powe
Man-ſervant, Maid-ſervant, &c. If G
had no more pitty and mercy to the ſo
of children and ſervants, then ma
bloody Parents and Maſters, they m
needs ſwim in the direful Gulph
their ſins, into utter deſtruction.

5. Repair to the publick places
Worſhip: If you have no Miniſter
your own pariſh, go where is the m
ſoul-ſearching, heart-melting, and
ner-rowſing Preaching, &c. *Iſa.* 2. 3.

Take theſe Rules with you.

1. Throughly weigh theſe F
things.

1 Conſider I am this day to wait
God, the King of Glory, and not
man; and therefore am I to come
all fear and care; what an infinite g
neſs am I to admire and Reverence

What rich goodneſs am I to love
delight in? What depths of wiſd
to look into? What infallible truth
reſt upon and believe? What a wrath
fiery indignation to tremble at? G
is glorious in holineſs, and of pure e
Iſa. 6. 1, 2, 3.

2. W

2. What a poor worthleſs worm and
reech am *I*? How ſhould *I* come
awling, crouching and trembling to
e Throne of Grace? What am *I* but
ſt and aſhes, but putrifaction, yea,
ink of ſin?
Iſa. 6. 5. *Job* 42. 5, 6.
3. *I* have not only an empty heart,
ide of all good, but an envious heart,
l of all miſchief and perverſneſs,
an. 8. 7, 8.
4. Yet what preparation have *I* made?
ave *I* not ſpent more time and care
dreſs my body for the eye of man,
en to deck my Soul for the eye of God?
ob 11. 13, 14, 15. *Pſal.* 19. 17.
2. As you are going to God's Houſe,
If you are alone, fill your heart with
avenly Meditations, hunger and thirſt
er the Word, 1 *Pet.* 2. 2. *Mat.* 5. 6.
Think, if God ſhould meet my ſoul
nd bleſs it: Oh that he would! 2. If
ou are in company, talk of God and
Word, but without pride or affectation.
Or hear other's heavenly diſcourſe; but
f they are ſuch as ſavour only of Earth,
nd ſcorn Goſpelneſs, either reprove or
ave them, 2 *Cor.* 6. 17.

3. As you enter God's preſence, really expect his goodneſs to paſs before you. See *Exod.* 33.18. to the end, *Chap.* 34. 6, 7. Earneſtly look for the light of his Countenance, *Pſal.* 4. 6. Say, Lord thou haſt promiſed to be in the midſt of thy people, *Pſal.* 133. 3. *Matth.* 18. 20. Bow the Heavens and come down: Let thy greatneſs awe us, and thy goodneſs refreſh us. By Faith, behold God in the higheſt Heavens, ſurrounded with glorious Saints and Angels, and take heed to thy ſelf, *Eccleſ.* 5. 1, 2. and yet through Chriſt, come with boldneſs, and cry, Abba Father, *Heb.* 4. 15, 16. *Chapter* 10. 19, 20, 21, 22.

4. Make a Covenant with your eyes, that they gaze not about to ſee, who is in the Congregation, and what Clothes they wear and the like; Take heed of a wandering departing heart, *Matth.* 15. 8, 9.

Fix your Eyes on the Miniſter, your Ears on the Word, and your heart on God, *Pſal.* 123. 1, 2.

5. Be reverend in the Geſture of your Bodies, bow your Knees as well as your hearts before the Lord; If the place be no

not convenient for kneeling, ſtand upright, 1 *Cor.* 14. 40.

6. What ever Spiritual work you ſet about, do it with all your might and ſoul, *Eccleſ.* 9. 10, *Rom.* 12. 11. As,

1. In Prayer, while the Miniſter is confeſſing and bewailing ſin, let your hearts even melt, bleed and break, *Joel* 2. 13. When he begs Mercy, let your ſouls breath and pant after it, *Pſal.* 42. 1, 2. When he returns thanks and praiſe, let all that is within you, bleſs God's Holy Name, *Pſal.* 103. 1, 2.

2. If Singing, let your hearts make melody to the Lord; Take heed when your voice is high, your heart be not dead, flat and low, *Col.* 3. 16. *Epheſ.* 5. 19.

3. When the Word is read or preacht, mind, This is the word of God, 1 *Theſ.* 2. 13.

1. It is his Command, and dare I diſobey it? Oh that my wayes were directed! *Pſal.* 119. 4, 5.

2. Doth God threaten theſe Judgements, and denounce theſe curſes on ſinners? And muſt I not tremble?

3. Are theſe his calls and invitations? His rich promiſes and great love? And

ſhall I refuſe all? Doth God knock at the door of my heart? Let the everlaſting doors thereof fly open, that the King of Glory may come in.

4. While the Miniſter is pronouncing the Bleſſing, poſt not away, (a fault too common every-where) but hope, deſire and believe, it ſhall come down upon you, *Pſal.* 133. 3. *Prov.* 8. 33, 34, 35.

7. Take heed afterward, that Satan may not ſteal away the good ſeed ſown; that the thorny cares of the world may not choak it, *Mark* 4. 14. to 20. Let not the world get into your mouths, as ſoon as the Word is out of the Miniſters. Some have been ſin-ſick when they hear a rowſing Sermon, when the Word flaſh Hell-fire in their faces, a little ſtartled; but its as men are Sea-ſick, vomit up the Word, and come aſhore to the world, and all is well again.

6. As ſoon as you come home, beg of God to bleſs the Word you have heard, that it may not be as water ſpilt on the ground, but that your memories may retain it, your hearts love, and your wills obey it, 1 *Cor.* 3. 6. That it may tear, rent and fetch blood from your

luſts,

luſts, that it may fire your hearts with love to, and zeal for God; and that love may fill your mouths with good words, and your hands with good works, *Rom.* 2. 13.

7. When you ſit down to Dinner, having beg'd God's bleſſing on the food of Soul and Body, *Mat.* 14. 19.

1. Eat no more than will fit and enable you comfortably and lively to ſerve God, *Luke* 21. 34. Many fill their bellies ſo at this time, that they are fit only to lay their drowſie heads on the Devils pillow of ſloth.

2. Talk of God's Word, ſitting down and riſing up. Let your hearts be heavenly, and your diſcourſe ſavoury, ſeaſon'd with Grace. A Table without ſome good diſcourſe, differs little from a manger, *Iſa.* 5. 12.

8. After Dinner, either repeat the Word heard, or read in the Bible, or in ſome other good book; and call your own heart, and your family to an account for what you have heard, *Deut.* 6. 7, 8, 9.

9. In the time appointed, go with your Family to the publick, as in the Morn-

Morning. Think not half a day enough for God and your ſouls.

1. If you come to the Congregation before the Miniſter, ſpend not away the time in idle imaginations or worldly diſcourſe, or any vain ſtories; but either meditate on God or his Word, or talk heavenly and holily. Its ſad to ſee a Church-yard fil'd with idle perſons, to hear nothing but of this or that perſon and family. The great queſtions are, how Corn was ſold the laſt Market day, and what Corn in ſuch a field? and the like. Poor barren empty ſouls! have you no better things to employ your heads and tongues about? Rather ask, what a good Word we heard this day? How are we now to provide for Heaven? The Devil is ſo buſie in the Church-yard, ſowing his ſeed, that God's ſeed takes little place and rooting in the Church. Can you do the Devil's work now, and the next hour God's? I am perſwaded, the ſeaſoning of perſons hearts with vanity and frothy diſcourſe before Sermon, hath been a very great hindrance to the efficacy of the Word, and the good of many poor ſouls.

2. Warm

2. Warm your hearts with love to God, and delight in the work; think not that falling down on your knees at your entrance, and tumbling over a few words, is a sufficient preparation. It's an harder work than most imagine, to fit the soul for God.

3. When you are waiting on God, take heed of drowsiness, deadness or distraction. Remember, a careless heart, a drowsie body, dull affections and dead services are not fit for a living God. Think, do I pray now as for Heaven? hear as one hearing, God speaking from Heaven? Is my heart such as God may love and delight in?

It's to be fear'd, many can tell, where the windows and seats are broken, what spots on the walls, and the like, better then what the Text, Doctrines, or heads of the Sermon were.

4. Take heed how you spend the Evening. The heart is very apt to be vain after serious Duties. If God hath set home any sin, shewn you any duty, [illegible] that over and over in your retired thoughts, *Psal.* 1. 2.

10. When you are about your necessa-

ry worldly work, as ſerving your cattel, and the like; Take heed of carrying a worldly heart into the field. Turn all things you ſee or hear heavenly. If your cattel ſtray, think, how apt am I to go out of Gods way. If you behold the Heavens, ſee therein Gods power and wiſdom, &c. *Pſal.* 19. 1.

Think or talk of the Word, *Pſal.* 19. 7. to 11.

11. Look on all you have done, as far ſhort of what God deſerves and requires. What heavenly, fervent, zealous prayers, doth ſuch a God deſerve, and ſuch rich mercy call for? God is worthy of a better tongue then mine, to praiſe him, and a better heart to love him. Could I have done all commanded, and never ſo well, I were but an unprofitable ſervant, *Luke* 17. 10. what am I then, when I come ſo infinitely far ſhort; when every duty is fill'd up with abundance of ſin and fearful failings.

12. Reſt on nothing you have done for acceptance or ſalvation, but on Chriſt alone. Diſown all confidence in your own righteouſneſs; and expect all the bleſſings and Promiſes ſtreaming to

you alone in the blood of Christ, *Phil.* 3. 8, 9.

13. Before you lye down at night, look over the days work. Search back into every hour and duty of the day. Humble your self, and be heartily sorrowful for any miscarriages; bless God, and be unfeignedly thankful, if you have received any good; and still look out for more. Take the shame of failings to your self, and give God the glory of any enlargements, 1 *Chron.* 29. 10, 11. &c.

FINIS.